

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

May 25, 2021

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Voluntown, Connecticut hereby warns and gives notice that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town will be held at the Voluntown Elementary School 195 Main St., Voluntown, Connecticut on **Tuesday May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is a hybrid meeting and can also be participated in via zoom. Electors and all others eligible to vote in town meetings in the Town of Voluntown must register with their legal name that appears on the Tax list or their voter registration card through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>. All users will be approved before being allowed into the meeting. Participants on zoom will be voting via poll.

1. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$2,204,125 (two million, two hundred four thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars).
2. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$6,785,196 (six million, seven hundred eighty-five thousand, one hundred ninety-six dollars).
3. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Capital Projects Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$179,000 (one hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars) from the unassigned fund.

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson with the reading of the Notice of Town Budget Meeting.

Pamela Theroux, Town Clerk served as clerk for the meeting.

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. A motion was made by Jack Wesa to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Jennifer Panko. No other nominations were made. All were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator.

The moderator asked for a motion to dispense with reading the call of the meeting again. Diana Ingraham made a motion to dispense with the reading of the call of the meeting again. Ronald Millovitsch seconded it, and all were in favor.

Item #1: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$2,204,125 (two million, two hundred four thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars).

Diana Ingraham made a motion to accept Item #1 and Ronald Millovitsch seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. First Selectman Tracey Hanson showed a power point presentation with the changes in this year's budget. The first questions were regarding why the Planning and Zoning Commission budget had not been changed to reflect some of the expected expenses on the Plan of Conservation, and it was explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission did not submit a budget so last year's budget was used. There were also several questions and suggestions regarding the large jump in the insurance and bonds section. Tracey Hanson explained that the jump is due to the state making more things eligible for workers compensation insurance as well as several claims this year. A question was asked regarding the increase in Public Works salaries, and it was explained that we now have three full time employees. The final question was the current total of the undesignated fund, which is \$1,205,359.05.

Jack Wesa made a motion to close discussion and Ronald Millovitsch seconded it. All were in favor.

Joseph Miller made a motion for paper ballot and ZOOM poll. Ronald Millovitsch seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Suzann Miller and Jennifer Panko counted the paper ballots 23 in favor and 8 opposed. The ZOOM poll was recorded by Julie Zelinsky with 4 in favor and 1 opposed. The totals were 27 in favor and 9 opposed.

Item # 1 Passed.

Item#2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$6,785,196 (six million, seven hundred eighty-five thousand, one hundred ninety-six dollars).

Joseph Miller made a motion to accept Item #2 and Jack Wesa seconded it. Item #2 was opened for discussion. Kate Beauparlant, Board of Education Chair, explained that the BOE had worked very hard to keep a zero increase. Adam Burrows, Superintendent of Schools, gave an overview of the budget and explained that this is the fifth year that there has been basically a zero increase on the school budget. He also explained how well the Voluntown School District had handled this year without having to go remote and keeping students in school. He talked about the various grants that the school had received and money that was returned to the school. Voluntown will also be adding Wheeler High School as a choice next year. Congratulations and a round of applause was given to the school staff, students, and parents. A question was asked regarding the new legislation that continues transition services for special needs students until the age of 22 instead of 21. Mr. Burrows referred that question to the special education director.

A motion was made by Joseph Miller to close discussion seconded by Mark (Skipt) Oulton. All were in favor, so carried.

Joseph Miller made a motion for paper ballot and Zoom poll. Ronald Millovitsch seconded the motion. All were in favor. Susann Miller and Jennifer Panko counted the paper ballots 29 in favor and 1 opposed. The ZOOM poll was recorded by Julie Zelinsky with 4 in favor and 1 opposed. The totals were 33 in favor and 2 opposed.

Item # 2 Passed.

Item #3: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Capital Projects Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$179,000 (one hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars) from the unassigned fund.

Joseph Miller made a motion to accept Item #3 and Jennifer Panko seconded it. Item #3 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

Joseph Miller made a motion to close discussion seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. All were in favor, so carried.

Jennifer Panko made a motion for paper ballot and ZOOM poll. Joseph Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Jennifer Panko and Suzann Miller counted the paper ballots 27 in favor and 3 opposed. The ZOOM poll was recorded by Julie Zelinsky with 5 in favor and 0 opposed. The totals were 32 in favor and 3 opposed.

Item # 3 Passed.

Jennifer Panko made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ronald Millovitsch seconded it, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Attest:

Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk